# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:910
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
WATER SHARING DISPUTES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;V. VETRISELVAN;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of water sharing disputes among the States in the country especially Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has directed State Governments to resolve river disputes in farmers interest;

(c) whether the Union Government have set up any panel to resolve the disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the specific steps being taken by the Government to resolve the water sharing disputes?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (e): The disputes relating to sharing of Narmada waters among the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra, relating to sharing of Godavari waters among the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Orissa and relating to sharing of Krishna waters among the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were referred to the Tribunals in 1969. These Tribunals have already submitted their reports and decisions by 1980. The Ravi and Beas Water Dispute among the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Cauvery Water Dispute among the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry were referred to Tribunals under the provisions of Inter State Water Dispute (ISWD) Act,1956 in April, 1986 and June 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its first report in January, 1987 and the party States and the Central Government have sought explanations/guidance from the Tribunal. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order in June, 1991 which has been published by Central Government in the official gazette.

The National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister in its 5th Meeting held on April 1, 2002 has adopted the National Water Policy which inter alia stipulates "The water sharing/distribution amongst the States should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin.

The Central Government in 2002-2003 has received requests under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act1956 from the State of Goa in respect of the dispute relating to sharing of water of Mahadayi/Mandovi river and from States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in respect of dispute relating to sharing of surplus water of Krishna river and other related matters for referring to the Tribunals for adjudication and decision. As per provisions of the Act, the Central Government is required to resolve the dispute by negotiations, failing which the dispute is required to be referred to Tribunals for adjudication and decision within one year from the date of receipt of the complaint.